



# PENTEST PAINS



**Chris Traynor**

# Ridgeback InfoSec, LLC

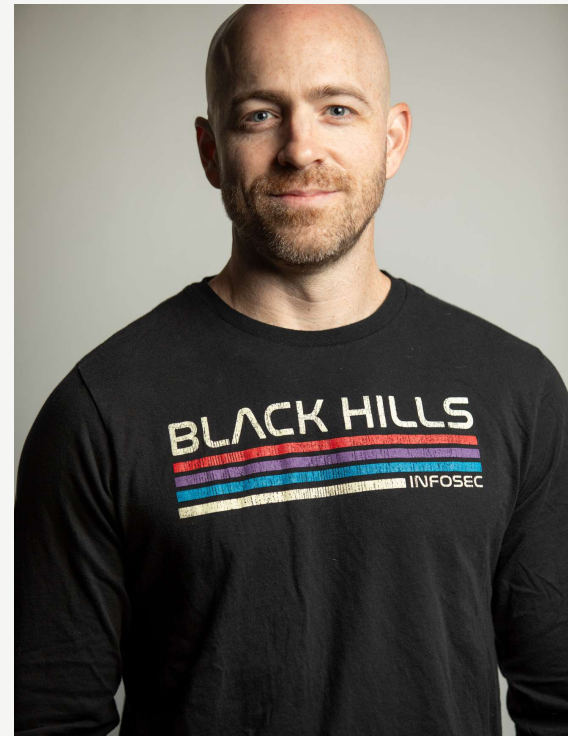
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## \$ whoami

### Chris Traynor

- Pentester at Black Hills InfoSec
- Owner of Ridgeback InfoSec, LLC
- Antisyphon Author/Instructor
  - Offensive Tooling Foundations
  - Offensive Tooling for Operators
  - BOTH now available via On-Demand\*\*
- Certs: GSEC, GCIH, GWAPT, & GPEN





## Why Is This Needed

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- To get better. Plain and simple.
- Painful engagements have consequences
  - Less secure environments
  - Loss of revenue
  - Reputational harm (on both sides)
  - Litigation
  - Sometimes termination
- This applies to **everyone** involved
  - Testers, POCs, SOC Analysts, Project Managers, etc.
- Keep in mind, MOST engagements go well





## Define What You're Doing

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- The hardest things to do in **any** job are **COMMUNICATION & EXPECTATION MANAGEMENT**
  - ...well...any office job at least
- Preconceptions & Misconceptions of Goals
  - Pentest
    - Web App, Network, Wireless, Physical, etc.
  - Red Team
  - Purple Team
  - Social Engineering
  - Phishing





## Rules of Engagement (ROE)

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- Establish POCs on both sides AND identify backups
  - Vacations? PTO? Work related travel?
- Motivation for testing
- Confirm testing dates
- What's in-scope AND out-of-scope
- Define a communication cadence and medium
- Emergency scenario plan
- Get authorization for specific “high-risk” actions
- Assign action items
- Agree on due dates





## Client-Driven Pain

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- Inaccurate or confusing scoping
  - IPs, CIDR notation, FQDNs, etc.
  - Duplicated system listings
  - Often due to simply not knowing what they have
- Not adhering to RFC 1918
  - Class A: 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255
  - Class B: 172.16.0.0 to 172.31.255.255
  - Class C: 192.168.0.0 to 192.168.255.255
- Not being ready on the agreed start date
  - “Environmental Preparedness for Testing” finding





## Client-Driven Pain

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- Being adversarial/taunting
- Threatening legal action early
- Insulting the tester personally or professionally
- Taking bad news badly
- Going dark during a test (unresponsive)
- Challenging **every** finding to get a “clean report”
- Having the wrong motivation
- Refusal to make concessions in the interest of more thorough testing
- Not giving timely feedback





## Tester-Driven Pain

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- Not knowing your tools
  - Using the wrong tool for the job
  - Not realizing the full impact of a tool
- Not verifying the scope provided
- Not adhering to the out-of-scope list
- Attacking w/o regard for your customer's business type
  - Hospitals, ICS, etc.
- Running DoS exploits
- Being too proud to ask for help



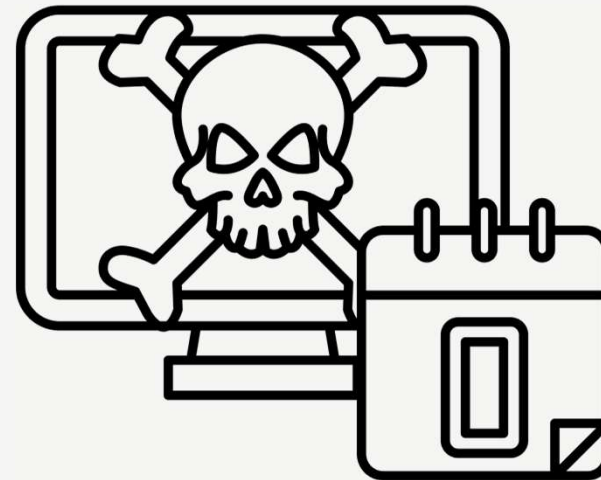




## Tester-Driven Pain

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- Not reporting as you go
  - **This is a big one folks!\*\***
- Inaccurate reports and/or lack of evidence
- Not making the report actionable
- Taking on a test type you don't know well
  - It's alright to challenge yourself
  - But don't leave a client feeling let down
- Not communicating or not being responsive
- Missing deliverable due dates
- Being unethical or immoral
  - Know where to draw the line

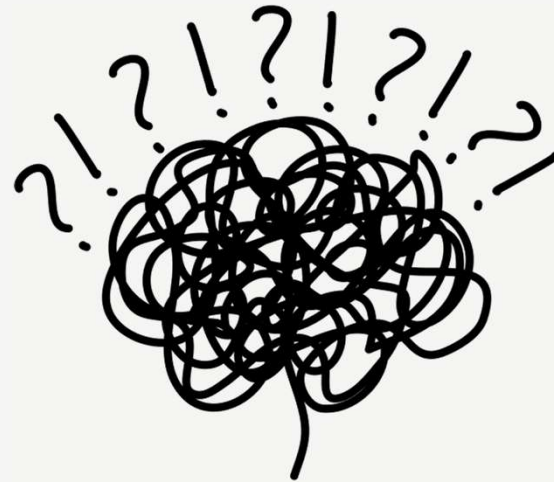




## When Things Go Wrong...

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- Examples:
  - Indicators of Compromise
  - Critical findings
  - Errors in reports
- Remember, we're all on the same team
- Don't let ego get in the way
- Communicate quickly & professionally
- Document, document, and document
- Know when to escalate
- YOU don't *have* to be the bad guy





# THANK YOU

FOR ATTENDING

**Chris Traynor**

[blackhillsinfosec.com](http://blackhillsinfosec.com)

[antisyphontraining.com](http://antisyphontraining.com)

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